

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE YOUTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026 AT 5:00 P.M.,
84 SOUTH MAIN ST, CHESHIRE, CT 06410

YHSC Members Present: Phillip Belcher, Susan Pappas, Amy Russell, Sally LaRusso and Kathryn Suarez

YHSC Members Absent: Norah DeCicco, Imani Reid, Margie Rodgers, Marlena Soble and Kristina Veilleux

Staff Present: Michelle Piccerillo and Kevin Lardner

YHSC Liaisons Present: Dawn Cronin (Cheshire Junior Women), Nick Deschino (Cheshire YMCA), Alice Santello (Cheshire Senior Center), Debrah Manke (Town Council), Hilary Norcia, Lisa Zaborowski (Cheshire YMCA). Brendan Moran (Cheshire Parks and Recreation).

Others: John Bajor, Cheshire Minutes Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

The pledge was recited, roll was obtained by manual signature and a quorum was determined to be present.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

There was a correction to the previous minutes with regard to attendance. In addition to spelling errors, Margie Rodgers and Kristina Veilleux were absent (not present) and Hilary Norcia and Kevin Lardner were present in attendance. As this meeting involves many liaisons, Mary E. Thompson-Kelly (Administrative Assistant) generated a sign-in template that was introduced by Michelle Piccerillo to record attendance.

MOTION by Sally LaRusso to approve the prior meeting minutes as amended
SECONDED by Susan Pappas, with motion passing by those present

4. COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman Phillip Belccher thanked member of the committee, staff and liaisons that attend this committee for their participation and willingness to work together setting any differences aside.

.

5. HUMAN SERVICES UPDATE AND COMMITTEE MEMBER SHARING:

Mental Health and Drug Awareness

- May is Mental Awareness Month and in recognition the Town Council will present a proclamation at their next meeting. Dodd middle school had 30-40 submissions for artwork/lawn signs. Two signs for each submission will be procured and placed in front of town buildings. In addition, a postcard was sent to residents on “More Good Days Together” and 5 ways to support your wellbeing.

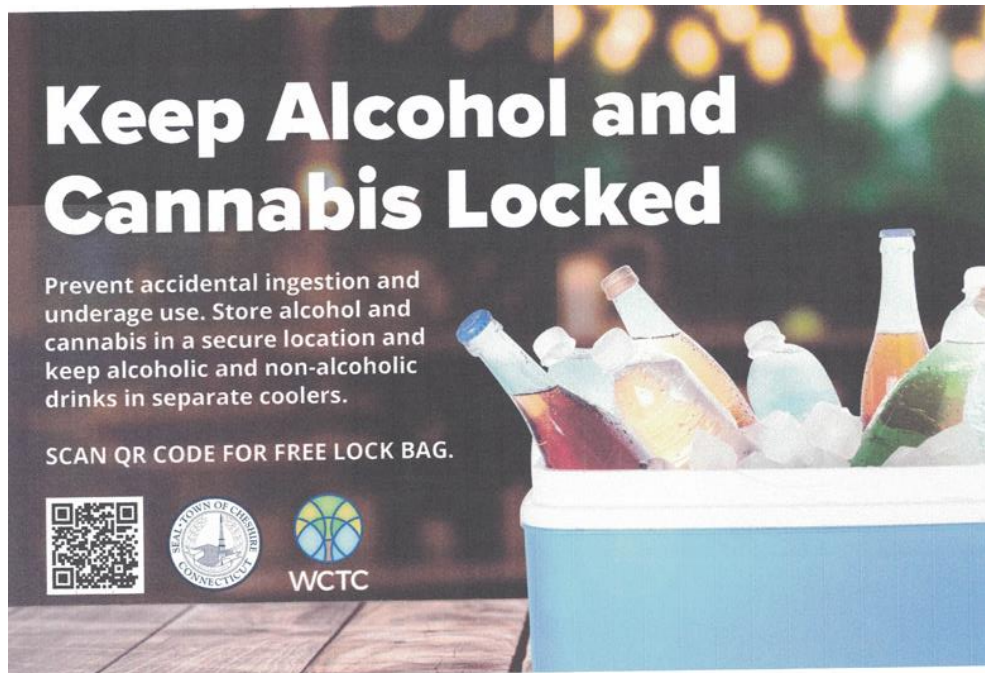


5 WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR WELLBEING

- **Stay Active:** Choose movement you enjoy. Walk on Cheshire's scenic trails, join a fitness or yoga class, or participate in local recreation programs.
- **Connect with Others:** Spend time with friends, family, and neighbors who make you feel supported. Try a community program or group activity.
- **Maintain a Routine:** Balanced meals, consistent sleep, and a steady daily schedule can improve mood, focus, and overall energy.
- **Unplug When You Can:** Take regular breaks from phones, computers, and social media. Consider outdoor activities, creative hobbies, reading, or in-person community events.
- **Find Activities & Support:** Cheshire offers a wide range of programs, recreational opportunities, and supportive services through Youth Services, Senior Center, Parks & Recreation, YMCA, Public Library and Human Services.

Contact Cheshire Youth & Human Services at 203.271.6690 or CheshireHumanServices@cheshirect.gov.

- Also, a postcard was sent to families with high school students on “Keep Alcohol and Cannabis Locked” for drug awareness in preparation of CHS proms.



THE CONNECTICUT SOCIAL HOST LAW HOLDS YOU ACCOUNTABLE.

As we enter a season of celebration with prom and graduation parties, remember that if you are hosting guests in your home, you are responsible for their safety. It's illegal to allow anyone under 21 to consume alcohol or cannabis on your property.

Under the Social Host Law, it is a **Class A misdemeanor** to allow minors to drink alcohol or use cannabis on your property. **You're responsible whether you are home or not.** Lock it up!

- You can be **fined up to \$2,000**
- Receive up to **one year in jail**
- If you **provide** the alcohol or cannabis you may be charged with a **Class E felony** and face additional fines and jail time.

Scan the QR Code for Cheshire Treatment and Wellness Resources.

QR CODE

- Michelle, Imani Reid and 4 students attended Hartford capitol for Youth Service Beaurio Day.
- Michelle attended a course on suicide prevention

Cheshire Junior Women:

- May 11th is a fundraiser featuring music bingo at Sliders
- A scholarship for \$1000 was presented to a Cheshire High School student in which there were 18 applications
- Spelling bee was held at Dodd Middle School
- Provided 12 bags for Mother's Day to Safe Haven in Waterbury
- Additional information can be found on the Cheshire Junior Women Facebook site

Cheshire Parks & Recreation:

- There are limited openings for summer camp at Artsplace
- Summer camp will run from June 15th – August 28th
- Summer pool hours have been released
- Schedule has been released for Bartlem Beats Fridays at Bartlem Park
- Trail trekkers next event is Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.. at Farmington Canal & Heritage Trail
- Additional information can be found on the Cheshire Parks and Recreation web site

Cheshire YMCA:

- “Walk with Ease” event scheduled for Mondays and Thursdays from Jun 1-July 10.



The flyer is for the "Walk With Ease" program, an Arthritis Foundation Certified Doctor Recommended Program. It features the logos for "the Y" and "Walk with Ease Arthritis Foundation". The text specifies the program runs on Mondays & Thursdays from June 1 to July 10, 11am-12pm. It lists benefits such as motivating oneself to get in great shape, walking safely, improving flexibility, strength, and stamina, and reducing pain. It also states it is a free program for all. Contact information for Brandon Riollano is provided at the bottom left. A photo of a group of people walking outdoors is shown at the bottom right.

the Y

Walk with Ease
Arthritis Foundation

Walk With Ease
An Arthritis Foundation Certified
Doctor Recommended Program

Mondays & Thursdays
June 1 – July 10 11am-12pm

Benefits to You
Walk With Ease will help you:

- Motivate yourself to get in great shape
- Walk safely and comfortably
- Improve your flexibility, strength and stamina
- Reduce pain and feel great
- **A FREE program for all!**

**Classes will be held outdoors
weather permitting**
For More Information Contact:
Brandon Riollano
203-272-3150 x511
briollano@sccymca.org



- A fundraiser will be held at Cheshire Craft Brewery on June 14th and a new membership special of 3 months for the price of 2
- Additional information can be found on the Cheshire YMCA web site

CAMP QUE
SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026
BBQ, BREWS & RAFFLE
125 Commerce Court, Cheshire, CT
In Person 4PM-6PM To Go 3PM-5PM

JOIN THE CHESHIRE COMMUNITY YMCA FOR FOOD, FUN, AND MUSIC!

EVENT TICKETS:
\$50 Adults/\$15 Kids
A special BBQ meal from Smokin' with Chris
A cold beer from local vendors
In-person, to-go options available

SCAN FOR TICKETS

RAFFLE TICKETS:
Top Prize \$500 Cash
OVER 20 OTHER GREAT PRIZES
Raffle tickets & the drawing are open to everyone - no need to attend the event!

MUSIC FROM THE MUDFLAPS

THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

Bartlett & Grippo
INJURY ATTORNEYS

SOUTHSHORE GRILL
HARTFORD 475-4500 NEW BRITAIN 475-4500

CHESHIRE CRAFT BREWING

MARION MANUFACTURING

MAIER design group, inc.

MASSUCCI & ASSOCIATES

Ballie & Hershmann • Network Design and Construction • Nuzzo & Roberts Law
KDM Kitchen • Monarch Dental • East Coast Mechanical
Caldwell Banker Kathleen Maloney • Barker Animation • DW Gems

the Y YMCA
FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SUMMER SAVINGS

3 months for the price of 2!

Starts 5/1 — College Students
Starts 5/15 — New & Former Members

Stop in or call
203-272-3150 Ext 500
Vicki-Lynn Greco
961 South Main Street
Cheshire, CT
vgreco@sccymca.org

Chesprocott:

- Environmental department has been busy inspecting septic tanks, pools, soil testing and food inspection
- Partnering with other towns for Narcan training: April 9th was “Save A Life Day”
- Offering training on fire safety and fall prevention
- Additional information can be found on the Chesprocott web site

Cheshire Housing Authority:

- Beachport low-income housing applications ended April 6th. A lottery system was used to select 48 housing units for 200 applicants. These are Project based Section 8 apartments in which residents pay 30% of their income for rent
- It is recognized that housing is an issue and concern with a waiting list for when new units become available
- Additional information can be found on the Cheshire Housing Authority web site

Cheshire Senior Center:

- Veterinary care Friday May 8th from 10 A.M. – 1 P.M.
- Cinco de Mayo party on Tuesday May 5th at 3 P.M.
- Music Bingo is offered every few months
- Blood Drive will be on Thursday June 4th from 1-6 P.M.
- Bus service is available and flexible (i.e. Doctor visits) but not on weekends.
- Additional events can be found on the Cheshire Senior Center Web site

6. SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN:

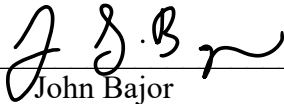
The committee split into working groups of 2-3 people for 20 minutes to address messaging for social media. Topics included kindness vs. bullying, digital wellness, mental health, alcohol, cannabis, e-cigarettes, nicotine patches all around substance mis-use and prevention. Feedback will be on Facebook and possibly Instagram. Also, please refer to Connecticut Social Host Law discussed under drug awareness.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Susan Pappas to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 P.M.

SECONDED by Sally LaRusso with motion passing unanimously by those present.

Attest:



John Bajor